

Message Text

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QUOTE: UNCLAS PARIS 21580

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FOR EUR/RPE DAMERON: PASS EPA POPKIN & WOOD

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: SENV, OECD
SUBJECT: PART II CHEMICALS PROGRAM FOR STRENGTHENING
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE CONTROL OF CHEMICALS

REFS: (A) PARIS 17498 AND 20477; (B) PACKER/DAMERON
TELECON JULY 6.

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETTER FROM ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR HILLIARD RODERICK: QUOTE, SIR, AS YOU MAY RECALL, A PREPARATORY MEETING WAS HELD ON 21ST-23RD JUNE 1 1978 TO DISCUSS A PROPOSED SPECIAL PROJECT ON THE CON-
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TROL OF CHEMICALS. REPRESENTATIVES FROM 17 MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ATTENDED THE MEETING WHICH WAS HELD AT THE OECD HEAD-QUARTERS. COUNTRIES ATTENDING THE MEETING EXPRESSED A GREAT INTEREST IN THE SPECIAL PROJECT AND AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE GENERAL PROGRAMME AND AIMS OF SUCH A PROJECT.

HOWEVER, SEVERAL COUNTRIES INDICATED THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO COMMIT THE NECESSARY RESOURCES IMMEDIATELY. DUE TO THE URGENCY WHICH SOME COUNTRIES ATTACH TO THE WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT WITHIN THIS SPECIAL PROJECT, IT WAS, NONE-THELESS, DECIDED TO RECOMMEND THAT WORK BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE SECRETARIAT WAS THEREFORE REQUESTED TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO BRING THE MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION BEFORE THE SUMMER RECESS.

I REGRET TO INFORM YOU, HOWEVER, THAT DUE TO PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS, IT IS NOT FEASIBLE FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT TO BE IMMEDIATELY FORWARDED FOR EXAMINATION BY THE COUNCIL BEFORE THIS RECESS. THE MATTER WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SIGNED HILLIARD RODERICK, UNQUOTE.

2. MISSION HAS DISCUSSED BACKGROUND OF LETTER WITH SECRETARIAT AND BELIEVES THAT TACTICAL DECISION NOT TO PRESENT PROGRAM TO COUNCIL BEFORE SUMMER RECESS DOES NOT REPRESENT SET BACK TO PROGRAM AND IS JUSTIFIABLE, CONSIDERING FLUID STATE OF AFFAIRS AT PRESENT TIME. SECRETARIAT STATES THAT OF 17 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT JUNE 21-23 MEETING, ONLY 11 COUNTRIES CAN MAKE FIRM COMMITMENTS TO FINANCIAL SUPPORT AT THIS TIME. THE OTHER SIX COUNTRIES, WHILE STRONGLY INTERESTED, NEED MORE TIME TO OBTAIN RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL

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AUTHORIZATIONS. ALSO IT IS BELIEVED THAT GERMANY WILL BE ABLE TO INCREASE ITS COMMITMENT BEYOND THE 320,000 FRANCS PLEDGED AT JUNE MEETING, THUS ELEVATING OTHER COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS ACCORDINGLY. FIRM COMMITMENTS OF 11 COUNTRIES AT THIS TIME TOTAL ONLY 1.4 MILLION FRANCS WHICH IS INADEQUATE FOR THE TWO PROJECTS SELECTED, ACCORDING TO SECRETARIAT, WHICH ESTIMATED 1.7 MILLION FRANCS NEEDED TO CARRY OUT THE WORK.

3. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, SECRETARIAT BELIEVES THAT BY EARLY FALL, THE SIZE OF GERMAN CONTRIBUTION AND THE COMMITMENTS OF THE SIX REMAINING COUNTRIES WILL BE FIRMED UP TO A POINT WHERE A NEW BUDGET FIGURE WILL CLEARLY SUPPORT THE WORK DECIDED UPON.

4. SECRETARIAT INTENDS TO PRESENT FIRM BUDGET AND PROGRAM TO COUNCIL IN EARLY FALL, FOR DECISION FORMALLY ESTABLISHING PART II PROGRAM. SECRETARIAT BELIEVES THERE WILL BE NO SIGNIFICANT DELAY IN INITIATING PROJECTS SHORTLY THEREAFTER. SALZMAN

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